*Previous references.*
cto 22-09 sl 1-3

1909.
( Prisons )

**File No.** 32-09

**Serial Nos.** 1-3

*Later references.*
Pris 46-15 (1-2)

# GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

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*Serial Nos.* 1-3

**Part B. for** November 1909

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SUBJECT.

Conversion into christianity of life-term convict Lakshmi no. 4377 of the Bangalore central Jail

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To The I.G. of Prisons. no. J 799 dy 16.9.09

Forwards an extract from a memorial of the above-named convict wherein she stated that she was baptised by a Roman Catholic priest with Sanction of Govt. & Enquires whether the Sanction of Go was obtained.

401/62-09 dy 23.9.09
quired sanction was gra

The same ... J 1232 dy 3.11.09.
Records with the remark that the should have been reported to Govt. before baptis

G.R.S.11 ]

1905-10

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

( Prisons )

NOTES.

Pris File No. 82-09

FILE HEADING.

Conversion into Christianity of life-term convict Lakshmi, No. 4377 of the Bangalore Central Jail.

From

No. Dated Received

Diary No. Enclos. Spare Copies Serial No.

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

File No. 32 of 1909

No.

1 To the I. G. of Prisons - No. J 7999 of 6-9-09.

Forwards an extract from a memorial from the Convict wherein she stated that having had a desire to become a Christian she was instructed and baptized by a Roman Catholic priest with the sanction of Govt. and enquires when she became a christian and whether the sanction of Govt was obtained.

2 From the same - No. 1401/61-09 of 23-9-09.

States that the prisoner having had a desire to become a christian and her father having intimated that he had no objection to her doing so the required sanction was granted by the I.G. himself in 1905 - and forwards the Correspondence relating to the subject.

This point was raised in the Office Memo to C.S. 22-09 re the question of the Remission of the unexpired portion of the sentence passed on the Convict in question.

Extracts from those Notes Relating to the subject of her Conversion to Christianity are given below for facility of reference

G. R. S. 12 ]
General and Revenue Secretariat.

Serial No.

Pris File No. 32 of 190 8

Vide Pris 7-20 of the Office Note to be recorded Collection put up

It is a matter worth considering whether it is right to allow Religious Teachers of other persuasions to have opportunities of Converting prisoners in jails, who are to a very large extent unable to exercise their own personal judgment and predilection as to whether or not they should give any hearing at all to such men. Are there any Rules or orders on the matter in the Jail Manual or elsewhere."

(Sd) N. V. R.
23-7-08

Get the information required by the 22nd quickly - - - (Sd) K.S.C.
24-7-08

Rule 663 of the Mysore Jail Manual permits religious instructions or observances to any one asking for such indulgence and according to the manner in which such instruction is given by the persuasion to which the prisoner belongs, provided it does not interfere with his work or the discipline of the prison.

Attention is also respectfully invited to Rules 532 to 534 of the

Serial No.

the Madras Jail Manual on the Subject."

(Sd) C.C.
24/7/09.

6 "I caused a search to be made in the Records for the file containing the sanction of Govt for the conversion of the girl, alluded to in her memorial but the office notes that no such orders have been ~~passed~~ issued either from the Court or the Prisons Section. - - - - - "

(Sd) S.H.
26-7-09.

7 " I should like the question of her conversion in jail to be fully gone into. She was only 13 years of age when she was converted to Christian How did she get this opportunity - ? In the Madras jail Manual there is a Rule that "Christian Ministers ~~shall~~ should not have access to non-Christian prisoners" &c - It will be interesting to know how Lakshmi became Maria Theresa ?

(Sd) K.P.P.
29-7-09.

P.T.O.

G. R. S. 12 ]
General and Revenue Secretariat.

Pris File No. 82 of 1907

Serial No. 8

The letter under disposal explains in detail how the prisoner became a Christian. The enclosures received with the above show that the prisoner Lakshmi having been despaired of any support from her father after her release from jail expressed a desire (without the slightest attempt to influence her mind being made) to become a Christian and the Govt. Prisons granted the required permission after obtaining the consent of her father.

In his order dated 18-6-1907 the Asst. Supt of the Central jail, Mr Hammerquist remarked as follows "- She wishes to become a Catholic and states that none has instigated or persuaded her to this. I may remark that there are three native female prisoners Roman Catholics." The relevancy of the latter part of the above remarks is not quite clear unless it is intended to give a hint that the prisoner may have been influenced by the three Roman Catholic prisone

Serial No.

Extract from

Prisoners.

Subd for orders with a copy of each of the Mysore & the Madras Jail Manuals.

29/9/09 30/9/09

10 The Dy's letter explains the matter fully. No reference was made to Govt and the Dy. on his own responsibility ~~granted permission to the Girl~~ allowed the conversion to take place, but not before satisfying himself that no undue or improper influence was brought to bear on the girl.

11 The Certificate furnished by the Superintendent (Mr Hammicoright) states: ~~that~~ "no jail official or person of whom I have any knowledge has made the slightest attempt to influence prisoner Lakshmi (no 4377) in her desire to become a Catholic".

12 This means therefore that no missionaries or Christian propagandists were allowed to have access to the Convict. The truth probably is that the three Catholic Convicts

G. R. S. 12]
General and Revenue Secretariat.

File No. 32 of 1909

Serial No.

T

referred to in the Supt's letter + Order dated 18.6.05 worked upon the mind of the young Advocate. Lit. The fact that her father did not seem to care much for her probably also drove her to take the same course.

13. The Correspondence may be recorded drawing the attention of the jail authorities to Rule 663 of the Mysore Jail Manual.

W. This may be recorded as the matter is not very urgent at present

2/10/09.

Secretary

Under these Orders

2/10/09

2/10/09.

14 May be recorded. with the remark that the matter should have been reported to Govt.

15 The Mysore Jail Manual is under revision. Rule 663 may be altered in a suitable manner

4/10/09

4/10/09.

. R. S. 12 ]
General and Revenue
Secretariat.

File No. 3 of 190

Serial
No.

16 I think the baptism of a minor should not have been allowed, and the last Darbhanga Rule in force (663) allows religious instruction only of the persuasion to which the prisoner belongs.

17. Please note. This may be pointed out & the ~~Rights~~ asked to see that the rule is not a dead letter in this respect.

5/10/09

SA
7/10/09.

Ref. 2868(book)
8.10.09

*Submitted to His Highness.*

(1) With reference to the conversion to the Roman Catholic faith of Lakshmi, a convict in the Central Jail, whose memorial was recently before His Highness, I submit for information the report of the Inspector-General of Prisons from which it will be seen that the baptism was permitted by Col. Smyth, the Inspector General, without a reference to Government, but after satisfying himself that no improper influence was brought to bear on the girl, and that the father of the girl had no objection. There were three Roman Catholic female convicts in the Jail at the time, and it seems not unlikely that the conversion of the girl was due to their influence.

(2) The report of the Inspector-General of Prisons may be recorded with the remark that the matter should have been reported to the Government before the baptism was permitted.

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja.

*Subject.*

Report from the Inspector-General of Prisons, in connection with the conversion of Lakshmi, a convict in the Central Jail, to the Roman Catholic faith.

289
530
16/10/09

*Order.*

19. ~~KRW~~
14/10/09

Secy
Sir
15/10/09

18/10/09
18/10/09

20. Some orders in this paper ~~are~~ required
Secretariat
18/10/09

G. R. S. 12]
General and Revenue Secretariat.

File No. 32 of 1909

| Serial No. | |
|---|---|
| | Draft- not for approval. NB 19/10/09. Issued 20/10/09 |
| 3 | To. The D.G. of Prisons in Mysore no. J 1232 dt 3.11. Records with the remark that the matter should have been reported to Govt. before the baptism was permitted. |

G.R.S. 26]

File No. 32
Serial No. 1/09

*Diary No. of letter replied to*

No. 1799 Conf
C892 08-3
Pris 32 916 9 09

General and Revenue Secretariat
( )
, *the* 190 .

To The Inspector General of Prisons.

Date of issue 16-9-09

Signed by [illegible]
Addl Secy

In forwarding herewith an extract from the memorial of Lakshmi alias Maria Theresa, Convict No 4377 in the Bangalore Central Jail, has the honor to enquire when and under what circumstances the said prisoner was allowed to be baptized by the Catholic Priest, and whether it is not contrary to the Jail rules to allow ministrations of any religion

over.

SUBJECT.

Vide Sanction of Govt was obtained for the Conversion as alleged by the Convict.

It is requested that a full enquiry may be made into the matter and a report submitted to Govt at a very early date

to have a/c/cepp - to
Convicts in Jails who
do not profess the
Same Religion
2. The favour of an early reply is
requested By Order.

Secretary.

9-9-09

*List of enclosures.*

*Copied by*

*Examined by*

MGCPB—30,000—16-2-05

190 89

From
The Inspr. Genl. of Prisons
in Mysore.

To
The Secy. to Govt.
— Genl. & Rev. Dept.

Dated 23rd September 09.

Despatched

Received

General No. 1401

No. 62-09

Enclosure No. 1 file.

---

Stating the circumstance under which convict No. 437 Lakshmi of the B. C. Jail was allowed to be baptized by the catholic priest.

9789

Mis 32-09 — 2

No. 1401 62-09 Encl. 1 file. Office of the Inspr. Genl. of Prisons in Mys
Dated Bangalore, 23rd September 1909.

From

Lt.-Colonel J.Smyth M.D., I.M.S.,
Inspector-General of Prisons in Mysore.

To

K.S.Chandrasekhara Aiyar Esqr., B.A., B.L.,
Secretary to the Government of His Highness
the Maharaja of Mysore, Genl. & Rev. Depts.

Sir,

In reply to your docket No.J.799/Cts.22-09-3 dated the 16th instant enquiring when and under what circumstances convict No. 4377 Lakshmi alias Maria Thersa of the Bangalore Central Jail was allowed to be baptized by a Roman Catholic priest and whether Government sanction was obtained for her conversion as alleged by her, I have the honor to state as under.

2. The convict in question is stated to have been baptized by a Roman Catholic priest in September 1905.

3. In June 1905, Mr. G.Hume Wright, the then Superintendent of the Jail sent me a copy of the order recorded by him in his order book to the effect that the female convict in question desired to become a Roman Catholic Christian and therefore the consent or objection of her parents should be obtained and also my sanction should be sought for before she is baptized. On this I asked the Superintendent to send me a certificate to the effect that she has not been coerced to take this step by any Jail officer and also the consent of her parents. All these he did and thereupon I said that I had no objection to her conversion. These are the circumstances under which her conversion to Christianity took place.

4. The convict's allegation that sanction of Government has been obtained for her conversion is thus inaccurate as it was I that gave consent to it after obtaining the consent of her parent

and

and the Superintendent's certificate.

5. The entire correspondence ending with the issue of this office Proceedings No.1607/J dated 22nd September 1905 is herewith forwarded in original for favor of information and return when no longer required.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

For Inspector-General of Prisons.

T.C.G.

G.R.S. 28]

**File No.32**
**Serial No.3**

*Diary No. of letter replied to* 764

*Proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.*

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.
( Prisons )

, *the* 190

Date of issue 3-11-09.

Signed by Mr P.G. D'Souza.

No J/232
Pris 32-09-3

READ—

Correspondence ending with letter No 1401/62-09 dated the 23rd September 1909 from the Insp^r General of Prisons in Mysore reporting on the circumstances connected with the Conversion

ORDER QUESTION No.

to the Roman Catholic faith of Lakshmi, a Convict undergoing imprisonment in the Bangalore Central jail.

Order Passed:—

Recorded with the remark that the matter

over

SUBJECT

GPB—10,000—10-4-06

should have been reported to
the Govt before the baptizm of was permitted.
~~the prisons was provided by~~.
the ~~Inspector~~ General.

SH

Secretary

2 the Insp. Genl of Prisons in Ryme.
advising the original recn